

Marine (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 230 Marine

DATED ¹⁴9 March 1899.

203
886 m/s

Matters of Political or Administrative Importance [Despatch Abstract.]

Trans: Public Dept Communication
Letter from the Govt of India regarding the prompt
submission to that Govt of reports on
or events which have created public interest
communicated to the Govt of India

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 313, Public, dated 19th February 1898.

READ—also the following paper:—

From A. H. L. FRASER, Esq., c.s.i., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department—Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 31st January 1899, No. 248.

I am directed to invite attention to the instructions of the Government of India conveyed in Home Department letter No. 1732-41, dated 24th August 1897, in reference to the prompt communication of information regarding matters of political or administrative importance.

2. Some objection was taken at the time to the request contained in paragraph 1 of that letter, that local officers should be instructed "to despatch direct to the Government of India duplicates of the telegrams in which they report matters of importance to the Local Government or Administration." But it was thought right to let the experiment be tried. I am to say that experience has shown that the advantages of this system are not so great as to lead the Government of India to insist on maintaining it. There have been several cases in which delay has occurred through misunderstanding arising from the division of responsibility in respect to this matter. The Governor-General in Council is, therefore, pleased to withdraw this request.

3. I am, at the same time, to say that His Excellency in Council considers it essential that information regarding matters of political or administrative importance, or events which have excited public interest, should be promptly communicated to the Government of India. The matters upon which the Government of India desire to receive the earliest possible information are—

- (1) riots which involve a serious breach of the public peace;
- (2) all collisions between Europeans of all classes and Natives;
- (3) outrages which have a political aspect;
- (4) calamities, such as floods or earthquakes, which cause serious damage to life or property; and
- (5) all other events which have a political or administrative importance.

4. It is essential that such matters should be immediately reported by local officers to the Local Government or Administration; and I am to request that instructions may be issued to secure that local officers shall promptly submit such reports by telegram. It is equally essential that these reports should reach the Government of India with the least possible delay. His Excellency in Council now leaves to the Local Government or Administration the duty of forwarding these reports by telegram, in the confident hope that it will be promptly and carefully performed.

5. This preliminary report should, in all cases of the kind which call for orders from the Local Government or Administration, be followed by an official report intimating its decision and communicating the orders passed as soon as the Local Government or Administration has been able to review the facts of the case and arrive at its conclusion regarding them.

ORDER—No. 223, Public, dated 23rd February 1899.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat for information and guidance in continuation of G.O., No. 313, Public, dated 19th February 1898.

2. All Collectors and District Magistrates will be instructed to report promptly to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government, by telegram, the occurrence of such events as those referred to by the Government of India in paragraph 3 of its letter read above.

(True Extract.)

Ashwath

for Chief Secretary.

To all Departments of the Secretariat. (Marine)
" Collectors and District Magistrates.

Government {1899} of Madras. PUBLIC.

Recd.

Regd.

1899.

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G.O., No. 223, 23rd February 1899.

No. 230 Year of 9.3.99

Communicated to the

Presidency Officer

FEBRUARY. in continuation of G.O.

183 Marine dated 12 March 1899

[27] A.W.S.

The P.P.O.

Matters of Political or Administrative importance.

Communicating to the departments of the Secretariat, for information and guidance, letter from the Government of India regarding the prompt submission to that Government of reports on —, or events which have excited public interest.

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(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To all Departments of the Secretariat.

„ Collectors and District Magistrates.

Marine Department.

Government (1899) of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Recd.

Regd.

1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

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318/59

G.O., No. 223, 23rd February 1899.

No: 230 March 9.3.99.
Communicated to the

Presidency Port officer

FEBRUARY. in continuation of G.O.

183 Marine dated 12 March 1899.

189 A.W.S.

In the P.P.O.

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